

Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims would replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A toluate based ester composition useful as a plasticizer, extender, or diluent in polymer formulations, said composition comprising: ~~a mono- or diester,~~ or a mixture of esters, prepared from the reaction of a methyl-*p*-toluate enriched stream of a Witten dimethyl terephthalate process, said methyl-*p*-toluate enriched stream containing no more than 3 wt% of methyl benzoate, with ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, or butanediol, said composition having a viscosity of less than 0.35 pascal second at 25 °C.

2. (Currently Amended) The toluate based ester composition of claim 1, wherein said ester composition is a low volatility liquid at 25° C.

3. (Previously Presented) The toluate based ester composition of claim 1, wherein said ester composition has a viscosity of less than about 0.25 pascal second.

4. (Currently Amended) The toluate based ester composition of claim 1, wherein said methyl-*p*-toluate enriched stream of a Witten dimethyl terephthalate process comprises from about 6 to 20 wt% of dimethyl terephthalate, from about 2 to 6 wt% of methyl-*p*-formyl benzoate, from about 1 to 5 wt% of *p*-toluic acid and from about 1 to 3 wt% of methyl benzoate in addition to methyl-*p*-toluate.

5. (Currently Amended) The toluate based ester composition of claim 1, wherein said methyl-*p*-toluate enriched stream comprises ~~from~~ from about 68 wt% to 84 wt% of methyl-*p*-toluate.

6. (Previously Presented) The toluate based ester composition of claim 1, further including tall oil fatty acids or modified tall oil fatty acids.

7. (Previously Presented) The toluate based ester composition of claim 1, further including canola oil, castor oil, clove oil, coconut oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, jojoba oil, linseed oil, olive oil, palm oil, peanut oil, safflower oil, sesame oil, soybean oil, or sunflower oil.

Claims 8 – 25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A toluate based ester composition useful as a plasticizer, extender, or diluent in polymer formulations, said composition comprising: ~~a mono- or diester,~~ or a mixture of esters, prepared from the reaction of a methyl-*p*-toluate enriched stream comprising methyl-*p*-toluate, from about 6 to 20 wt% of dimethyl terephthalate, from about 2 to 6 wt% of methyl-*p*-formyl benzoate, from about 1 to 5 wt% of *p*-toluic acid and from about 1 to 3 wt% of methyl benzoate, with diethylene glycol or triethylene glycol, said composition having a viscosity of less than 0.35 pascal second at 25 °C.

27. (Previously Presented) A toluate based ester composition according to Claim 26 wherein said methyl-*p*-toluate enriched stream comprises from about 68 wt% to 84 wt% of methyl-*p*-toluate.

28. (Previously Presented) A toluate based ester composition according to Claim 26 which further includes tall oil fatty acids, modified tall oil fatty acids, canola oil, castor oil, clove oil, coconut oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, jojoba oil, linseed oil, olive oil, palm oil, peanut oil, safflower oil, sesame oil, soybean oil, or sunflower oil.